

Amendment to the Claims

Please withdraw claims 1-13 and claims 27-39 as follows:

1-13. (Withdrawn)

14. (Original) A system, comprising:

a private communication server maintaining availability information regarding a plurality of users;

a plurality of personal communication subsystems, each associated with a user in the plurality of users, and each in wireless communication with said server; and

a data channel between said server and a first one of said plurality of subsystems, the first one of said subsystems being associated with a first user;

wherein said server is configured

to communicate at least a portion of the availability information through said data channel to at least a first subsystem, and

to respond to command signals carried from the first subsystem to said server by said data channel.

15. (Original) The system of claim 14, wherein said server is further configured to communicate updates to the at least a portion of the availability information through said data channel at predetermined intervals.

16. (Original) The system of claim 14, wherein:

said command signals comprise a request for an update to the at least a portion of the availability information when the availability information changes for a second user in the plurality of users, and

said server is further configured to provide the requested update in response to said request.

17. (Original) The system of claim 16, wherein said server provides the update through said data channel.

18. (Original) The system of claim 17, wherein:
the request specifies a particular new status, and
the change is an update of the second user to the particular new status.

19. (Original) The system of claim 16, wherein said server provides the updates by establishing a voice connection between the first user and the second user through the voice channel when the availability information changes for a second user changes to a predetermined state.

20. (Original) The system of claim 19, wherein:
said first subsystem has a user interface; and
said request is generated by said first system in response to a single action in the user interface by the first user.

21. (Original) The system of claim 14, wherein the association between the first subsystem and the first user is made using a log-in procedure.

22. (Original) The system of claim 21, wherein the portion of the availability information accessible to the first subsystem is limited on the basis of the association with the first user.

23. (Original) The system of claim 22, wherein
the first user is associated with one or more organizations, and
the limiting allows access by the first user to availability information relating only to
users in the plurality of users who are also associated with at least one of the one or more
organizations.

24. (Original) The system of claim 21, wherein:
the first subsystem comprises a personal digital assistant; and
the log-in procedure is performed using the personal digital assistant.

25. (Original) The system of claim 14, wherein:
each subsystem in said plurality of subsystems comprises:
a wireless voice communication device coupled to a first wireless network; and
a wireless data communication device coupled to a second wireless network;
and
said data channel connects said server and said wireless data communication device
through the second wireless network.

26. (Original) The system of claim 14, further comprising a plurality of workstations in
wired communication with said server, each associated with one or more users in the plurality of
users.

27-39. (Withdrawn)